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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/870,258	05/30/2001	Robert E. Krancher	1662-36600 JMH (P00-3414)	7402
23505	7590	11/25/2003	EXAMINER	
CONLEY ROSE, P.C. P. O. BOX 3267 HOUSTON, TX 77253-3267			DANG, KHANH NMN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2181	3

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/870,258

Applicant(s)

KRANCHER ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh Dang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 4-11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 4, line 8, "the bus bridge" lacks clear antecedent basis.

In claim 6, line 9, ";" should be changed to -- .--.

In claim 14, line 1, after "The", the word -- method -- should be added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lin et al.

At the outset, it is noted that similar claims will be grouped together to avoid repetition in explanation.

As broadly drafted, these claims do not define any structure that differs from Lin et al. With regard to claims 1-3, Lin et al. discloses a computer system comprising: a notebook computer (laptop L) having an expansion bus (PCI bus); a docking station (expansion base E) having an expansion bus (PCI bus); and a communication pathway (serial I2C) coupling the notebook computer (L) and the docking station (E); wherein each of the notebook computer and docking station communicate across the communication pathway (serial I2C) to determine whether the notebook computer and docking station are compatible devices (by using at least EEPROM 151 and microcontroller 170) prior to coupling the expansion bus of the notebook computer to the expansion bus of the docking station. With regard to claims 4 and 5, the notebook computer (L) further comprises: a microprocessor (100); a system main memory (106); a first bridge logic device (104, for example) coupling said microprocessor and system main memory; a second bridge logic device (118, for example) coupled to the first bridge logic device by way of a primary expansion bus (PCI bus); a notebook docking connector (switches/connector in Lin et al.) coupled to the bus bridge by way of the expansion bus (ISA bus, for example) of the notebook computer, the expansion bus being a secondary expansion bus; an input/output device (124, for example) coupled to the second bridge logic device (118) by way of a secondary expansion bus (ISA bus, for example), and wherein the input/output device is configured to communicate across the communication pathway (I2C) to determine whether the docking station (E) is compatible with the notebook computer (L); and wherein the communication pathway (I2C) is a notebook computer serial bus coupled between the docking connector and the

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input/output device. With regard to claims 6 and 7, the docking station further comprises: a docking station docking connector (146); a bus bridge (MISC-E 118) coupled to the docking station docking connector, wherein the bus bridge bridges the secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to an expansion bus (PCI 112B) of the docking station; a docking station serial bus (I2C) coupled to the docking station docking connector (146); a microcontroller (at least microcontroller 170b) coupled to the docking station serial bus, and wherein the microcontroller is configured to communicate across the communication pathway (I2C) to determine whether the notebook computer is compatible with the docking station. With regard to claim 8, the computer system further comprising: a read only memory device (ROM 126) coupled to the second bridge logic device of the notebook computer; a serial electrically programmable read only memory device (EPROM) or (EEPROM 151 in Lin et al.) coupled to the docking station serial bus; wherein the input/output device of the notebook computer is further adapted to read information from the serial EPROM (151) across the docking station serial bus as part of determining whether the docking station is compatible with the notebook computer; and wherein the microcontroller of the docking station is further adapted to read information from said notebook computer ROM (126) across the notebook computer serial bus as part of determining whether the notebook computer is compatible with the docking station. With regard to claim 9, the notebook computer serial bus has a plurality of conductors (see Fig. 2); the secondary expansion bus having a plurality of conductors; a plurality of electrically controlled switches (113, for example) coupled one each between the docking connector and each

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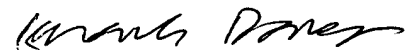
of the plurality of conductors of the serial bus and the secondary expansion bus; and the input/output device (124) having a plurality of digital output signals coupled to the plurality of electrically controlled switches (113), the output signals configured to selectively activate the plurality of electrically controlled switches. With regard to claim 10, the input/output device (124) is configured to activate the digital output signals coupled to the electrically controlled switches of the serial bus (I2C) to allow the notebook computer (L) and the docking station (E) to communicate when determining whether the notebook computer and the docking station are compatible (see above). With regard to claim 11, the input/output device (124) is configured to activate the digital output signals coupled to the electrically controlled switches (113) of the secondary expansion bus after a determination that the notebook computer and docking station are compatible. With regard to claims 12-23, it is clear that one using the device of Lin et al. would have performed the same steps set forth in claims 12-23. With regard to claim 24, see explanation above regarding to claims 1-11. With regard to claim 25, see explanation above regarding claims 1-11. Note also that the general purpose I/O of I/O device (124) is readable as "the Super I/O device having a set of general purpose output signals." With regard to claims 26-28, see explanation above regarding claims 1-11 above. With regard to claims 29-37, it is clear that one using the device of Lin et al. would have performed the same steps set forth in claims 1-11 and 24-28.

US Patent Nos. 5,463,742 to Kobayashi, 5,642,517 to Shorota, 6,088,752 to Ahern, and 5,596,728 to Belmont are cited as relevant art.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Khanh Dang at
telephone number 703-308-0211.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Khanh Dang".

Khanh Dang
Primary Examiner